ACTION-PLUS WITH AIR WAVE!
60¢
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ALL NEW! MORE PAGES!
NO. 526
DEC.
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
SUPERMAN--
FACE-TO-FACE WITH
NEUTRON
THE LIVING BOMB!
AT STAKE--
THE VERY
EXISTENCE OF
METROPOLIS!
ANDRU & GIORDANO
ND WITH EVERY TICK OF THE CLOCK--
ME IS RUNNING OUT!

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
DAILY PLANET'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TONIGHT
PRESIDENT GORDON'S SUPERMAN TO SPEAK
HIDDEN FAR BENEATH METROPOLIS IS THE LONG-ABANDONED LUTHOR'S LAIR #16.
ABANDONED BY ITS BALD-HEADED BUILDER, PERHAPS, BUT NOT BY THIS VERY ANGRY MAN WHO NOW GOES UNDER THE NAME NEUTRON, THE LIVING BOMB!
YOU CREATED ME, SUPERMAN! YOU TURNED ME INTO THIS AWFUL MONSTER I'VE BECOME!
BUT TONIGHT I'LL SEE THAT YOU SUFFER FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
...WHEN YOU BECOME--
THE MAN WHO MURDERED METROPOLIS!
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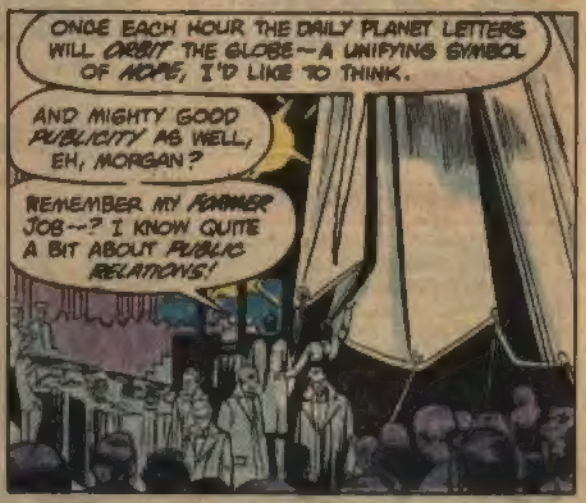
YOU'LL PAY FOR LEAVING ME TRAPPED IN THAT NUCLEAR PLANT AFTER MY PARTNERS AND I TRIED STEALING THEIR CONTROL-RODS FOR OUR BOSS, LUTHOR!
I CRIED OUT TO YOU TO SAVE ME FROM BEING CRUSHED BY THAT LEAD-SHIELDING-- BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME, DID YOU?
STILL, SOMEHOW I ESCAPED, MADE IT TO LUTHOR'S LAIR WHERE HE TOLD ME I WAS DYING OF RADIATION POISONING.
HE CREATED A SPECIAL SUIT FOR ME TO WEAR, THEN TRIED TO SAVE ME WITH ONE OF HIS INVENTIONS -- A NEUTRON-RAY DISPLACER!
BUT WHILE I BATHED UNDER ITS HEALING RAYS, YOU CAPTURED LUTHOR --PREVENTING HIM FROM SHUTTING OFF THAT EVER-INCREASING NEUTRON RADIATION!
I WAS TRAPPED THERE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AS THE RAYS CHANGED ME, ALTERED MY VERY BODY CHEMISTRY--
--UNTIL I BECAME A WALKING LIVING BOMB!
BUT YOU'LL PAY, SUPERMAN ...OH HOW YOU'LL PAY!
AND TONIGHT, NEUTRON WILL COLLECT!
THAT NIGHT, ATOP THE GALAXY BUILDING...
THIS IS INCREDIBLE! EVERYONE'S HERE!
WHEN MORGAN EDGE THROWS A PARTY, THERE'S ONLY THE BEST!
AHHH, THERE'S THE PRESIDENT'S HELICOPTER! ONLY URGENT GOVERNMENT BUSINESS WOULD KEEP HIM SO LATE!
150
2

MR. PRESIDENT, IT'S GOOD SEEING YOU AGAIN. HOW ARE YOU, SIR?
MIGHTY GOOD, MORGAN! LIKE A MAN HALF MY AGE!
WELL, IS SOMEONE GOING TO INTRODUCE ME? I'M SURE THE PRESIDENT IS JUST DYING TO MEET ME!
OH, SHUSHIN, JIMMY!

AND, AS THE PARTY FULLY GETS INTO SWING...
...THAT'S RIGHT, MR. PRESIDENT-- SUPERMAN IS GOING TO UNCOVER AND LIGHT OUR NEW GLOBE!
IT WILL BE A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT-- SEEN FROM EVERY POINT IN THE CITY!


ONCE EACH HOUR THE DAILY PLANET LETTERS WILL ORBIT THE GLOBE--A UNIFYING SYMBOL OF HOPE, I'D LIKE TO THINK.
AND MIGHTY GOOD PUBLICITY AS WELL, EH, MORGAN?
REMEMBER MY FORMER JOB--? I KNOW QUITE A BIT ABOUT PUBLIC RELATIONS!

AS THE FESTIVITIES CONTINUE...
SOMETHING WRONG, CLARK? YOU'RE POSITIVELY PALE!
I MUST HAVE EATEN TOO MUCH, PERRY. I FEEL SICK...
EATEN TOO MUCH? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU TAKE A BITE ALL EVENING!

UHH, I THINK I'D BETTER GO LIE DOWN FOR AWHILE... JUST TO MAKE SURE.
WHAT A SPEAKING! ALL THIS FRESH AIR PROBABLY GOT TO HIM.

BUT AS SOON AS CLARK ROUNDS A CORNER...
I'M GETTING KIND OF TIRED USING THE QUEASY STOMACH ROUTINE SO I CAN SHOW UP AS SUPERMAN--
--BUT IT'S JUST ONE OF THE THINGS I HAVE TO DO TO KEEP MY SECRET IDENTITY A SECRET!
3

THEN, AFTER A QUICK FLIGHT TO THE ARCTIC FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
BESIDES, BEING CLARK IS ONE OF THE ALL-TOO-FEW TIMES I GET THE CHANCE TO RELAX... IT'S LIKE TAKING OFF MY BOOTS!
AND IT'S CERTAINLY THE ONLY TIME I GET WHEN PEOPLE RELATE TO ME AS AN ORDINARY MAN!
ALL I EVER WANT IS TO SIMPLY DO MY JOB, BUT SO MANY PEOPLE THINK OF ME AS A CELEBRITY... SOMETHING I NEVER INTENDED. AH WELL...
SPEAKING OF JOBS, I'D BETTER GET ON WITH MINE-- THESE SOLAR RECEPTORS SHOULD CREATE A SPECTACULAR DEBUT FOR THE PLANET'S NEW GLOBE!
WHILE, BACK IN METROPOLIS...
IT'S ELEVEN O'CLOCK, AND SUPERMAN HAS PROMISED TO LIGHT OUR SOLAR-POWERED GLOBE.
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED, EVERYBODY-- THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
I WISH CLARK WOULD GET BACK. HE'S GOING TO MESS EVERYTHING.
SUDDENLY THERE COME GASPS OF SHOCK AND AWE AS...
LOOK! A LIGHT'S HITTING THE GLOBE!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! WHAT IS IT?
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! THAT LIGHT IS BLINDING!
WHAT'S SUPERMAN DOING? IF HE'S FOULED UP THIS MOMENT
AND ALL AROUND METROPOLIS, THE STORY IS THE SAME, AS EYES ARE AVERTED FROM THE BRIGHTLY GLOWING GLOBE...
WGBS
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT THIS MOONLESS NIGHT SHINES WITH THE LIGHT OF THE NOONDAY SUN...
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THEN, ALL AT ONCE THE GLOW FADES AND THE PEOPLE ARE GREETED WITH AN AWE-INSPIRING SIGHT...
GREAT THUNDER! EVEN DE MILLE COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER!
DAILY PLAN
IT'S MAGNIFICENT!
OF COURSE! SUPERMAN AND, AHEM-- I ARRANGED THIS LITTLE SHOW. AHEM!
BUT, FROM ACROSS THE WAY, A POWERFUL FIGURE CROUCHES IN THE DARKNESS, WATCHING WITH DEEP, BITTER EYES...
CELEBRATE, YOU DOLTS-- BUT THAT LIGHT SIGNALS THE END OF METROPOLIS!
FOR NOW-- AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR-- NEUTRON STRIKES!
NIGHT CLUB
STEALTHILY, SECRETLY, HE MAKES HIS WAY DOWN TO THE GROUND. THEN...
WITHIN THESE FISTS PULSES THE POWER OF A NEUTRON BOMB!
IT'S HIGH TIME TO LET THEIR TERRIBLE POWER BE UNLEASHED!
AND THE HORRIBLE EFFECTS ARE TOO MIND-NUMBING TO DESCRIBE...
HURRY TO ME, SUPERMAN! IT'S TIME FOR US TO BATTLE!
THE FATE OF METROPOLIS WILL BE DECIDED IN ITS OUTCOME!
KRA-BLAMMM
THE BLAST IS SUDDEN AND DEVASTATING! SHOCK WAVES RIPPLE OUTWARD AT DEADLY SPEED!...
5

AND, EVEN AS NEUTRON'S BOOMING VOICE FADES INTO THE DISTANCE...
I WAS DREADING THIS--HOPING AGAINST HOPE HE WOULDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.
WITH THE PRESIDENT HERE--WITH EVERYONE ELSE ALL-TOO-CLOSE--HE COULD CREATE A TOTAL DISASTER!
WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO END THIS BATTLE EVEN BEFORE IT'S BEGUN!
A USELESS TACTIC, SUPERMAN!
A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
KEEPING ME OFF BALANCE WON'T STOP ME FROM USING MY POWERS!
DO YOU FEEL IT, SUPERMAN? CAN YOU TELL HOW STRONG I AM BECOMING?
THE BLAST MERELY HAD THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE OF TEN HYDROGEN BOMBS--
--AND MY POWER IS STILL GROWING!
MY BODY HAS BECOME AN EVER-INCREASING NUCLEAR CHAIN-REACTION!
IN TIME, MAN OF STEEL, I'LL BE ABLE TO DECIMATE WORLDS!
NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO STOP ME THEN, SUPERMAN--
--NOT EVEN YOU!
EH--? WHAT'S HE DOING--?

NOW DO YOU SEE WHY, SUPERMAN? BECAUSE OF YOU, I AM BEING CONVERTED INTO PURE ENERGY!
AND AS YOU KNOW-- ENERGY CAN NEVER BE DESTROYED!
AARGHHH!
HIS POWER... BLASTING ME OFF BALANCE...!
IF I CAN'T STAND... IF I CAN'T GAIN THAT BALANCE... I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT BACK!
HE CAN KEEP USING ME LIKE A HUMAN BATTERING RAM-- AND I'D BE HELPLESS TO STOP HIM!
I MUST STOP HIM--BEFORE THE PRESIDENT-- BEFORE ALL THOSE OTHERS ARE HURT!
GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP BEING SMASHED ABOUT...
GOT TO GRAB HOLD OF SOMETHING... ANYTHING...
GROUND'S GETTING NEARER... I'M MANAGING TO SLOW DOWN MY DESCENT-- MANAGING TO GAIN THAT BALANCE I NEED.
A FEW MORE SECONDS THAT'S ALL IT WILL TAKE...
THEN, AS SUPERMAN FINALLY SKIDS TO A STOP...
I'LL ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE AT HIM--
--AND I'VE GOT TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED, SUPERMAN ROCKETS FORWARD, HIS FACE GRIM-SET AND DETERMINED...
...WHILE A DEFIANT NEUTRON STANDS READY AND STRONG...
7

...AND WITH VERY GOOD REASON!
KRABLAMMO!
YOU DID IT, SUPERMAN--DID WHAT I EXPECTED!
YOU SEE, BY BEING DEFEATED, I'VE REALLY WON!
GREAT RAO! HE'S TURNING INTO PURE ENERGY!
I KNEW I COULD NEVER PHYSICALLY DESTROY YOU, SUPERMAN--BUT IF I WANTED REVENGE, I COULD MENTALLY TEAR YOU APART!
WGB
YOUR SUPER-PUNCH SPREAD MY ATOMS OVER THE ENTIRE CITY--
--CREATING A NEUTRON DOME WHICH EVEN YOU CANNOT PENETRATE WITHOUT CREATING AN INSTANT AND DEADLY RESULT!
NEUTRON'S VOICE IS HEARD EVERYWHERE AT ONCE! BOTH PRESIDENT AND PAUPER ALIKE HEAR HIS FRIGHTENING WORDS...
BUT THERE'S MORE! SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY I PLANTED A DEADLY NEUTRON BOMB!
WHEN YOU LIT THE DAILY PLANET GLOBE--YOU UNKNOWINGLY ACTIVATED IT!
UNLESS YOU FIND AND STOP IT IN TIME, SUPERMAN--THAT BOMB WILL EXPLODE IN ONE HOUR!

BUT WHERE DID I HIDE THE BOMB, SUPERMAN? AH, THAT IS THE RUB, ISN'T IT?
IT COULD BE ANYWHERE, YOU KNOW... ANYWHERE ON THIS PLANET!
OH, YES -- AND TO KEEP THINGS INTERESTING, I'VE PLANTED SOME RED HERRINGS... DECOYS... JUST TO MAKE YOU SUFFER!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, NEUTRON?
BECAUSE ONLY YOU AND I SHALL SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION, THAT'S WHY!
AND YOU SHALL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE KNOWING YOU ACTIVATED THE BOMB -- THAT YOU WERE THE MAN WHO MURDERED METROPOLIS!
YOU'RE CRAZY, NEUTRON! YOU'D DECIMATE AN ENTIRE CITY JUST TO GET BACK AT ME?
I'D EVEN DESTROY THE PLANET ITSELF TO GAIN MY VENGEANCE!
HURRY, SUPERMAN! WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS YOU'LL BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND THE BOMB IN TIME!
PERHAPS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS... RESCUE THE CITY!
YOU MIGHT SUCCEED, SUPERMAN, THOUGH FRANKLY -- I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT!
HE'LL FIND THAT BOMB... HE'S GOT TO!
IF ANYONE CAN, LOIS, SUPERMAN WILL.
I HOPE... AND PRAY!
HA! HA! HA!

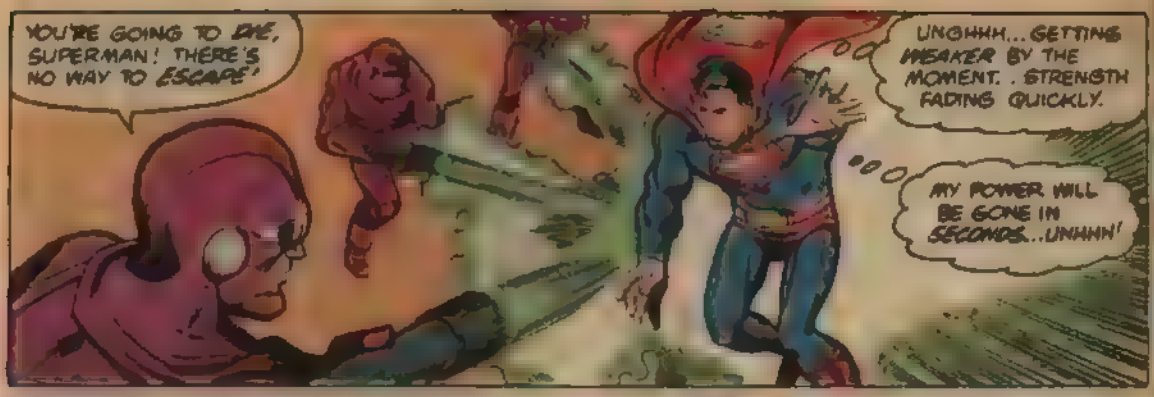
CONTINUED ON 23RD PAGE FOLLOWING

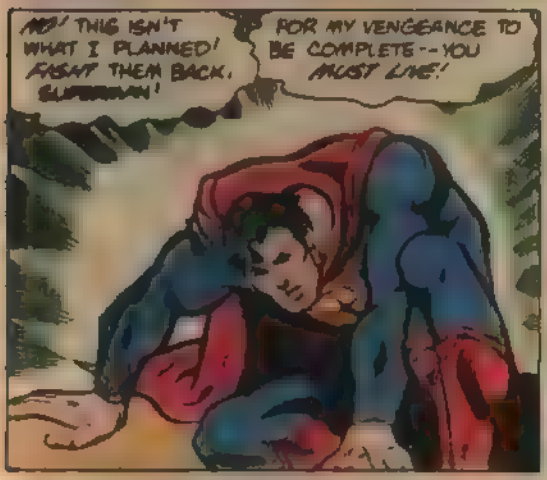
THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO MAKE SENSE. HE SAYS HE'S PLANTED A BOMB, BUT HOW--? AND WHEN?
I FOUGHT HIM LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO--HE COULDN'T HAVE HAD TIME TO BUILD A DEVICE THAT COMPLEX!
YET OUTSIDE OF TAUNTING ME, WHY LIE ABOUT IT? AND DO I DARE TAKE THE RISK THAT IT IS A LIE?
NO! I'VE GOT TO ASSUME THERE IS A DEVICE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, AND I'VE GOT TO ACT ON IT FAST AS I CAN!
WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES THESE MEN TICK? WHAT IS IT THEY'RE TRYING TO PROVE?
I'VE FOUGHT NEUTRON AND HIS KIND FOR YEARS, AND I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY THEY FEEL THEY MUST ABUSE THE POWERS THEY'VE BEEN GIVEN.
POSSESSING SPECIAL POWERS ALONE IS ALREADY SELF-SATISFYING. THERE'S NEVER ANY NEED TO USE THEM FOR PERSONAL GAIN.
I CAN FLY, I'VE GOT SUPER-STRENGTH AND OTHER ABILITIES--I'VE GOT ALL THESE POWERS--WHILE OTHERS HAVE NOTHING.
I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WANTING TO USE THESE POWERS FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN I.
PLEASE, SUPERMAN--HELP US! WE NEED YOU!
MOMMY, LOOK--YOU GOTTA LOOK! IT'S SUPERMAN! HE'S REAL...NOT JUST ON THE TV!
I WANNA SEE 'IM REAL CLOSE--TOUCH HIM!
ANGELA--NO! YOU'RE LEANING OUT TOO FAR--!
ANGELA!
IT'S SUPERMAN HE'LL STOP THAT CREEP, I JUST KNOW HE WILL!

MOMMY!
OH, MY BABY--!
TAKE IT EASY, HONEY-- THERE'S NOTHING TO BE FRIGHTENED OF I'VE GOT YOU!
SUPERMAN! IT'S REALLY YOU! WOW!
THERE YOU GO, SAFE AND SOUND. BUT NEXT TIME LISTEN TO YOUR MOM, OKAY? NEVER LEAN OUT OF WINDOWS--
--BECAUSE LITTLE GIRLS CAN'T FLY, ONLY SUPERMAN!
THANK YOU, SUPERMAN. GOD BLESS YOU!
AS SUPERMAN SPEEDS OFF WITH A BRIEF, SATISFIED SMILE, WE SWITCH SCENES TO A VAST COMPLEX HIDDEN FAR UPSTATE..
SIRS, WE'VE LOCATED ONE OF THE BOMBS! WE'LL NEED OUR ASSASSINS HERE IMMEDIATELY.
THEY ARE ALREADY BEING PREPARED, AGENT 7. PROPER WEAPONS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED.
THE HIVE # HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR MONTHS NOW LET NEUTRON DESTROY METROPOLIS--
--WE WANT SUPERMAN!
A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE HIERARCHY, FOR INTERNATIONAL VENGEANCE AND EXTERMINATION -- JULIE
11

MEANWHILE...
YOU'VE LOCATED YOUR FIRST BOMB AT THIS BRIDGE, I SEE... EXCELLENT, SUPERMAN BUT IS THIS ONE REAL?
OR ARE YOU MERELY WASTING YOUR TIME-- WHILE METROPOLIS HAS LESS THAN FORTY MINUTES TO LIVE?
HE'S TRYING TO GOAD ME... AND ALMOST SUCCEEDING.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE TIME LASHING OUT AT HIM INSTEAD OF HUNTING DOWN HIS BLASTED BOMBS!
BEGINNING WITH... NO! THIS ONE'S A PHONY-- JUST ONE OF HIS DECOYS!
WHY DIDN'T I CHECK IT OUT WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION INSTEAD OF RUSHING HERE LIKE A FOOL?
KRUSH
ALL HIS TAUNTING GOT TO ME, THAT'S WHY I HAD TO MOVE, HAD TO PROVE SOMETHING INSTEAD OF LOGICALLY MAKING THE SEARCH.
WELL, I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE A SECOND TIME!
HURRY-- YOU'RE FALLING BEHIND SCHEDULE, SUPERMAN! YOU'LL NEVER SAVE METROPOLIS AT THIS RATE!
THAT TEARS IT, NEUTRON-- SHUT UP!
I'LL FIND THAT BOMB, AND WHEN I DO, I'LL MAKE YOU EAT IT!
12

OKAY, CALM DOWN... MAKING THREATS ISN'T MY STYLE -- GOING ABOUT MY JOB IS THE WAY I WORK.
I'VE PICKED UP TWO [redacted] -- BOTH DUDS .. BUT THE NEXT BOMB... IT'S SHIELDED WITH LEAD!
CAN'T TELL IF THIS ONE'S REAL UNTIL I CHECK IT OUT IN PERSON--
BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO GET THOSE KIDS AWAY-- GREAT KRYPTON! IT'S STARTED TICKING... THAT MEANS I'VE ONLY GOT [redacted]!
NO TIME TO BE GENTLE -- A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH WILL SAFELY MOVE THEM OUT OF THE WAY...
HEY-- WHAT'S GOING ON? I'M BEING BLOWN BACK!
SURF
... WHILE I DISMANTLE THIS-- HUH? THE TICKING'S STOPPED?!
THEN, SUDDENLY..
KABLOOM!
IT'S EXPLODING... BUT THIS ISN'T A NEUTRON EXPLOSION... JUST A SMOKE BOMB!
THAT BOMB WAS PHONY, SUPERMAN-- BUT WE RIGGED IT TO EXPLODE.
WHO--?
M.I.V.E. ASSASSINS... I'VE FOUGHT THEM BEFORE!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING TO USE SOME OF THE KRYPTONITE WE STOLE -- WAITING TOO LONG, SUPERMAN!
BUT NOW THE WAIT IS OVER... AND WE'VE GOT YOU -- DEAD TO RIGHTS!
3


YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, SUPERMAN! THERE'S NO WAY TO ESCAPE!
UNGHHH... GETTING WEAKER BY THE MOMENT. . STRENGTH FADING QUICKLY.
MY POWER WILL BE GONE IN SECONDS..UNHHN!


NO! THIS ISN'T WHAT I PLANNED! FIGHT THEM BACK, SUPERMAN!
FOR MY VENGEANCE TO BE COMPLETE--YOU MUST LIVE!

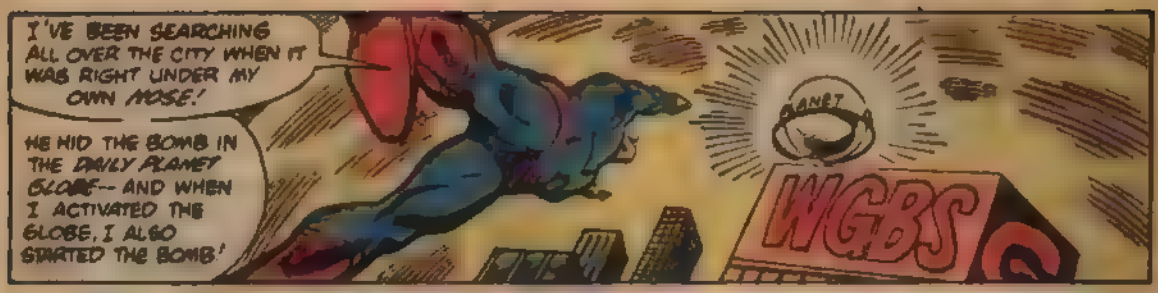
UNHH .: ONLY ONE CHANCE... HOPE I CAN MUSTER HEAT VISION I NEED.

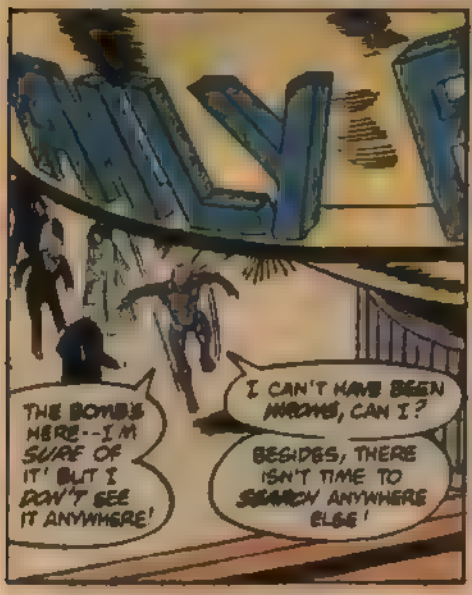
...TURN THIS BEACH-SAND TO GLASS..
HUHH--? WHAT'S HE DOING--?
EEEYAH! MY FEET.. HE'S FORMING GLASS AROUND THEM!

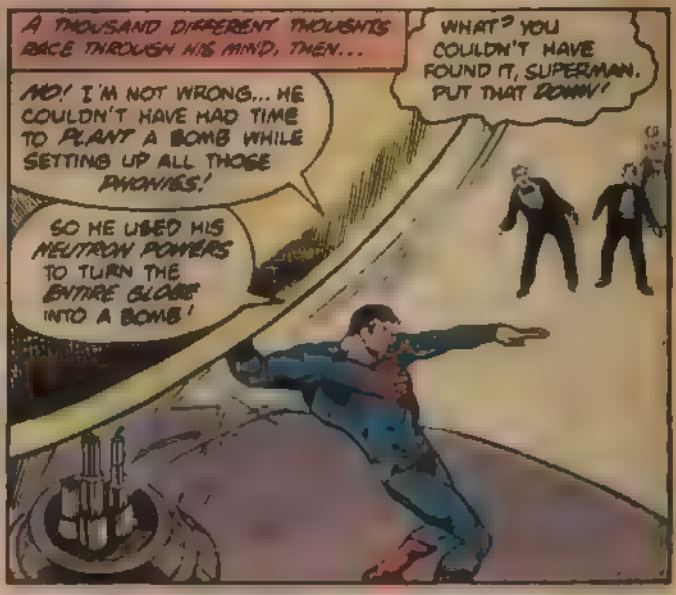
AND, WITHIN SECONDS...
MFFMFMFMMMLFF. C-CAN'T... MOVE..
DONE... THANK RAO, THE GLASS IS COMPLETELY COVERING THEM
I DON'T WANT THEM SUFFOCATING FROM LACK OF AIR..
...BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT DETAIL AFTER I'VE GOTTEN RID OF THEIR RATHER DANGEROUS FOES!
KRAKSH!

NOW THEN, A LITTLE MORE MEAT, AND I FORM SOME FIBERGLASS CORD...
JUST WHAT I NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T RUN OFF!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO US?
DO--? I'M JUST SEEING THAT YOU BOYS MAKE YOUR APPOINT-MENT--
--WITH THE METROPOLIS POLICE!
YAGGAHHHH!!
I'M SURE THEY'LL HAVE A NICE, WARM CELL READY FOR YOU
PLEASE--ARREST US! LOCK US UP! JUST DON'T LET HIM NEAR US AGAIN!
MY PLEASURE, FELLOWS ... MY PLEASURE!
YOU HAVE ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES LEFT, SUPERMAN! ARE YOU GOING TO WASTE TIME AT THE FIRE HERE WHILE THE LIVES OF THE PRESIDENT AND ALL THOSE OTHERS ARE AT STAKE?
I'M NOT TRADING LIFE FOR LIFE, NEUTRON. AND I'LL DEAL WITH EACH EMERGENCY AS I CAN!
TROUBLE IS, I CAN'T RISK THE DANGER OF BLOWING IT OUT AND SPREADING THE FIRE.

ONLY CHANCE I'VE GOT IS TO MOVE AT SUPER-SPEED, CREATE A VACUUM IN MY FLIGHT PATTERN AND DRAW THE FLAMES UP TO ME!
FASTER AND FASTER THE ACTION ACE FLIES, UNTIL...
DID IT! ONCE WITHIN MY VACUUM, THE FLAMES DIED OUT FOR LACK OF OXYGEN!
BUT THIS COST ME PRECIOUS MINUTES-- AND TIME IS THE ONE THING I HAVEN'T--EH?
HELP!
SEEMS I'M STILL NOT DONE HERE... THERE ARE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THAT BUILDING.
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN CAUGHT THERE WHEN THE FIRE BROKE OUT
SUPERMAN!? OOHH THANK HEAVENS!
THE CEILING'S COLLAPSING, AND THERE'S THE REASON WHY-- ITS SUPPORT COLUMNS MUST HAVE BURNED THROUGH!
I'LL HAVE TO QUICKLY SMOKE THEM UP!
THIS PLACE DATES BACK TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY WHEN THEY USED FREE STUMPS AS SUPPORT BEAMS.
BUT MY SUPER-CAPE SHOULD HOLD THIS ONE TOGETHER, AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER I'VE FOUND THE BOMB.
ONLY FIVE MINUTES LEFT, BUT THAT SHOULD BE LONG ENOUGH! I'VE FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHERE THE BOMB IS!
HE SAID HE WANTED ME TO FEEL GUILTY... HE EVEN SAID I ACTIVATED THE BOMB WITH SOLAR POWER!
16


I'VE BEEN SEARCHING ALL OVER THE CITY WHEN IT WAS RIGHT UNDER MY OWN NOSE!
HE HID THE BOMB IN THE DAILY PLANET GLOBE-- AND WHEN I ACTIVATED THE GLOBE, I ALSO STARTED THE BOMB!
PLANET
WGBS


THE BOMB'S HERE--I'M SURE OF IT! BUT I DON'T SEE IT ANYWHERE!
I CAN'T HAVE BEEN WRONG, CAN I?
BESIDES, THERE ISN'T TIME TO SEARCH ANYWHERE ELSE!


A THOUSAND DIFFERENT THOUGHTS RACE THROUGH HIS MIND, THEN...
AND! I'M NOT WRONG... HE COULDN'T HAVE HAD TIME TO PLANT A BOMB WHILE SETTING UP ALL THOSE PAYOFFS!
SO HE USED HIS NEUTRON POWERS TO TURN THE ENTIRE GLOBE INTO A BOMB!
WHAT? YOU COULDN'T HAVE FOUND IT, SUPERMAN. PUT THAT DOWN!

HE ONLY NEEDED A POWER-SOURCE TO EXPLODE THE BOMB, AND I GAVE IT TO HIM!
DID YOU HEAR ME, SUPERMAN? YOU CAN'T SAVE METROPOLIS! I MUST HAVE MY REVENGE!

BUT, PROPELLED BY THE MIGHTIEST MUSCLES ON EARTH, THE GIANT GLOBE SHATTERS NEUTRON'S DEADLY DOME .. AND CONTINUES SPACEWARD...

... WHERE IT HARMLESSLY EXPLODES IN THE VELVET DARKNESS...
THERE IS A DEVASTATING BLAST OF SEARING LIGHT WHICH PULSATES DEEP INTO THE FURTHEST REACHES OF SPACE BEFORE FOREVER FADING FROM VIEW...

BUT, ON EARTH, THE MENACE IS STILL NOT OVER
WHEN I SENT THE GLOBE HURTLING THROUGH NEUTRON'S DOME, IT VIRTUALLY "UNGLUED" HIM.
HE'S RAINING DOWN DEADLY NEUTRON RADIATION... HE COULD STILL DESTROY HALF THE CITY!
IF I LET HIM THAT IS-- AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING THAT HAPPEN!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO STOP HIM THE SAME WAY I STOPPED THAT FIRE!
CIRCLING HIM AT SUPER-SPEED CREATES CENTRIFUGAL FORCE, PUSHING HIS ATOMS TOGETHER..
.. UNTIL HIS BODY RE-FORMS!
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I DID IT!
UNHHHHH.
HE STILL HAS HIS POWERS, BUT, IF I FIGURED CORRECTLY.
S-SUPER-MAN...
UNGHHHH."
JUST AS I HAD HOPED... ALL HIS ATOMIC FORM-SHIFTING CREATED TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN!
HE'S PASSED OUT!
18

THE DANGER'S OVER... AND I'LL CONSTRUCT A SPECIAL CELL THAT EVEN NEUTRON CAN'T BREAK THROUGH.
YOU'RE LOOKING AT A TRUE HERO, MY FELLOW AMERICANS!
THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I MUST TAKE CARE OF...
SUPERMAN-- HE'S STILL THE BEST OF THEM ALL!
IT'S OVER . I SHOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT IT, BUT I'M NOT
ARE YOU CRAZY, OLSEN? THE CITY'S BEEN SAVED!
I KNOW THAT, MR EDGE, BUT--
--TO SAVE THE CITY, SUPERMAN HAD TO DESTROY THE NEW PLANET GLOBE! WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM!
UNHH DID I MISS SOMETHING? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GLOBE?
I TOOK A LITTLE NAP, AND...
DID YOU "MISS" SOMETHING? CLARK, YOU MISSED EVERYTHING!
HOLD IT-- SOMETHING'S COMING LOOK UP THERE!
I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT... WHAT IS IT?
I'M NOT CERTAIN... BUT IF I KNOW MY PAL, I'VE GOT A STRONG HUNCH!
DAILY PLANET
IT'S THE GLOBE! SUPERMAN MUST HAVE BUILT ANOTHER ONE!
HE'S DONE IT AGAIN! WHAT A SUPER MAN!
SO WE GOT THE GLOBE BACK? BIG DEAL!
LET'S GET ON WITH THE PARTY!
DAILY PLANET
AND WITH THAT, OUR STORY COMES TO... THE END!
19

NEXT ISSUE: A NEW VILLAIN! SUPERMAN BATTLES SATANIS AND "SORCERY OVER STONEHENGE!" ON SALE OCT. 29! IT'S A DATE!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY *LARRY JORDAN* BATTLED CRIME NOT ONLY IN THE COURT ROOMS, BUT IN THE STREETS AS A COSTUMED HERO UNTIL HE DIED! NOW, YEARS LATER, HIS SON *HAL* HAS TAKEN OVER THE IDENTITY AND WITH THE AMAZING ABILITY TO "RIDE" RADIO-SIGNALS, CARRIES ON THE BATTLE AS ..

AIR WAVE

"Dear Cousin Hal, I'm writing this letter because I have to tell this story to someone... and there's nobody here in Dallas who knows my double identity!

"It started two nights ago while I was out walking around in a thunderstorm...

KRAKABOOOOM!

¡YEOWWW!... IF I HADN'T BEEN IN MY RADIO-ENERGY STATE, THAT LIGHTNING BOLT WOULD'VE FRIED ME LIKE AN EGGPLANT!

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AIR WAVE TUNES IN!

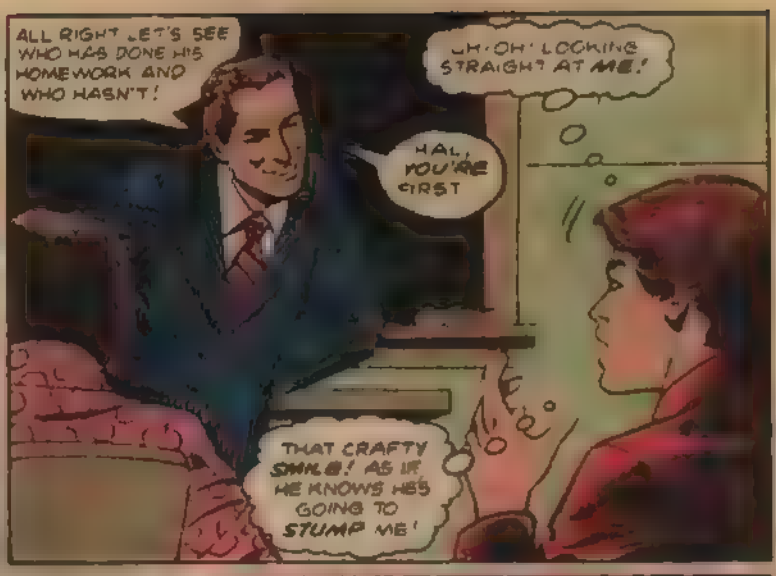
THAT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE! THERE'LL BE NO MORE FLYING AROUND IN THUNDERSTORMS!

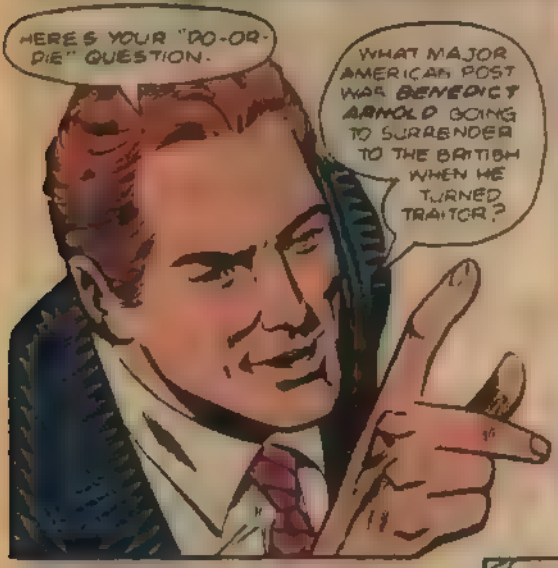
"Luckily, there seemed to be nothing wrong as a result of the shock," I reckoned...

"Just to be sure, I checked out the energizing set up in my helmet...

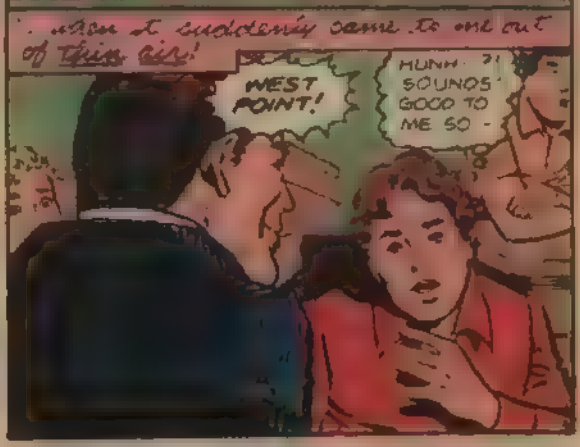
EVERYTHING CHECKS OUT A-OK, AS THE ASTRONAUTS SAY!

But something was not the same as I found out in school yesterday morning. Miss Spencer, my history teacher, was giving an oral quiz for which I was not fully studied ..


ALL RIGHT LET'S SEE WHO HAS DONE HIS HOMEWORK AND WHO HASN'T!
UH-OH! LOOKING STRAIGHT AT ME!
HAL YOU'RE FIRST
THAT CRAFTY SNAKE! AS IF HE KNOWS HE'S GOING TO STUMP ME!


HERE'S YOUR "DO-OR-DIE" QUESTION.
WHAT MAJOR AMERICAN POST WAS BENEDICT ARNOLD GOING TO SURRENDER TO THE BRITISH WHEN HE TURNED TRAITOR?

"I hadn't reached that far in my studies -- so I tried to think of a possible answer ..



I guess it was a lucky guess at the time --

-- but later, when I went to the locker room to suit up for football practice...
THREE-THIRTY! I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SO LATE
THE COACH WILL HAVE ME RUNNING LAPS UNTIL TOMORROW'S PRACTICE!
MAYBE IF I JUST BLEND INTO THE WORKOUT HE WON'T NOTICE--HUNH?!
SOMEBODY BUSTING OPEN THE LOCKERS!
"My reaction to this was... Action!..
GOOD THING I HAD MY AIR WAVE COSTUME IN MY GYM BAG INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT HOME TO DRY OUT!
"OOOG!" STILL DAMP FROM LAST NIGHT'S RAIN
"But we super-heroes are supposed to return up to discovery us!"
IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF DIVERTING INTO FOOTBALL, PAL--
--I'M THROWING YOU FOR A LOSS!
AIR WAVE--?!
AH, YOU RECOGNIZE ME? GOODIE--THAT MEANS I'M FAST BECOMING A CELEBRITY AROUND HERE!
NOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TELL ALL YOUR BUDDIES HOW AIR WAVE TACKLED--
--MY CROWBAR! HOW'S THAT FEEL, BIG MOUTH?
KA-LIK!

NOW I KNOW WHY GREEN LANTERN COACHED ME TO "PUT A LID ON THE CHATTER AND DO THE JOB!"
HE'S GETTING AWAY AND I'M IN TOO MUCH PAIN TO FOLLOW! IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE HE'S HEADING--
HUNH?! I CAN "SEE" THE ANSWER --IN MY MIND'S "EYE"!
"It was really weird! I had a 'vision' of a gas station that I knew was a few blocks from the school--
So, when I was able to energize, I zeroed over there...
I'LL JUST RIDE THE RADIO WAVES INTO THE CORRECTIVER IN THE TOW TRUCK--
--AND MAKE A RADIO-DISPATCHED ARRIVAL!
BUT THIS TIME-- NO INTRODUCTORY REMARKS! I'LL GET RIGHT DOWN TO [redacted] AT HAND!
THWAM
OOMPH!
OVER... AND OUT!
[redacted] AS EXCITING WITHOUT THE SNAPPY PATTER!
"While the police were taking him away, the mind boggling thing happened to me again...
I HAVE A "VISION" OF THAT CROOK BEHIND BARS! IT MUST BE WHAT HE'S THINKING OF!
SO THE STRANGE THINGS I'VE BEEN EXPERIENCING-- IT'S BECAUSE I CAN READ MINDS!
IT MUST'VE BEEN THE LIGHTNING BOLT THAT ZAPPED ME!
[redacted] ME TO PICK UP THOUGHT WAVES AS WELL AS RADIO WAVES!
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CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

As a mind-reader, I fantasized how much better a super-hero I could be! Well, that night, at dinner...
--I KNOW THE MAN IS GUILTY AND THAT HE'S STASHED THE LOOT SOMEWHERE, JAN!
WE JUST CAN'T GET HIM TO REVEAL THE LOCATION!
I HELP YOU EAT YOUR MUSH POTATOES, JENNIFER!
I'LL BET I COULD FIND OUT FOR COUSIN JACK...WITH MY NEW POWER!
WAAH!! JASON TOUCHED MY 'TATOES!
I CAN'T EAT ANY MORE, MOMMY! JASON GOT GERMS ON MY DINNER!
STOP CARRYING ON, JENNIFER!
AHHH...KIDS! WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THEM?
REMEMBER, MOMMY--IF I GET SICK AND DIE, IT'S JASON'S FAULT!
I KNOW, JENNIFER! JASON, NEXT TIME EAT YOUR OWN FOOD!
5
SCHOOL'S CLOSED TOMORROW, COUSIN JACK! COULD I COME WITH YOU TO THE COURTROOM?
THE CASE YOU'RE TRYING SOUNDS REAL INTERESTING!
SURE, HAL!
DID I EVER TELL YOU IT WAS YOUR FATHER'S CAREER AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY THAT INSPIRED ME TO BECOME A D.A.?
OF COURSE YOU HAVE--AT LEAST FIFTY TIMES!

"So, this morning, I got to see my brother do his stuff! You should be proud of him Hal--he's a great prosecutor...
--AND YOU MAINTAIN, MR. BAKER, YOU HAVE NO IDEA AT ALL WHERE THE STOLEN GOODS CAN BE FOUND?
NONE WHATSOEVER!
"Just as I figured, Baker envisioned this hiding place at that moment--and so did I!
ALL I NEED DO IS LOCATE THAT ROTTED TREE AND AIR WAVE CAN RECOVER THE LOOT!
THEN JACK CAN LOCK THIS MAN UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY!
"When the morning's proceedings were over...
NOTHING WORKS UP MY APPETITE MORE THAN A DAY IN COURT, HAL! HOW DOES A BOWL OF CHILI GRAB YOU?
"Zzzat! That's what two armed men suddenly did to cousin Jack!...
C'MON, MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY--YOU'RE GOIN' WITH US!
LET GO OF ME!
LIKE THEY USE TA SAY IN OLD GANGSTER MOVIES--
"WE'RE TAKIN' YOU FOR A RIDE!"
HEY, STOP THAT... WHUUUHH!
GET LOST, SQUIRT!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! GOT TO TRY AND "TUNE IN" ON THEM...GET A "PICTURE" OF WHERE THEY'RE GOING!
TSK! TSK! ANOTHER MUGGING--
SKEEEEEE
--IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!
6

"I managed, sore stomach and all, to duck out of sight and send Air Wave into action again...
THE "VISION" I HAD WAS OF A WAREHOUSE--
--BUT ONE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE! I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH THE WHOLE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT TO FIND IT!
"I couldn't have searched harder and faster even if I had known what was going on...
AND THIS, JORDAN, IS KNOWN AS WALKIN' THE LAST MILE!
SIDDOWN!
JUST A MINUTE, FELLAS! DON'T I GET A CHANCE TO SAY SOME LAST WORDS?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT--?
IT'S ABOUT MY BROTHER, BENNY LANDON!
YOU HAD HIM SENT UP, JORDAN--FOR LIFE! HE BOUGHT IT IN A PRISON RIOT!
SO NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY WITH YOUR LIFE--IN MY ELECTRIC CHAIR!
"And that's just when I found the place...
...TOO LATE! HE'S PULLED THE SWITCH!
BURN, JORDAN--BURN!
7

MY ONLY CHANCE NOW IS TO INTERCEPT THAT ELECTRICAL CHARGE BEFORE IT REACHES JACK!
WHAT'S THAT THING?
MAYBE IT'S A SHORT IN THE WIRING!
YEEOOWW! IT HURTS ALMOST AS BAD AS THAT LIGHTNING BOLT!
BRZZZT
BRZAP
NEXT MOVE-- TURN OFF THE POWER--
--AND MAKE MY POWER-PLAY!
THWAM!
BULLETS GO THROUGH HIM-- LIKE A GHOST!
BAM
BAM
BUT MY PUNCH IS SOLID!
WOK
"So thanks to my mind-reading power, I was able to save your mother, Jack...
...but at a price!...
"...my mind-reading power was gone! The second electrical charge took it away as the first one had given it..."
STILL...IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED!
HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON! YOUR COUSIN, HAL.
Next Issue: AIR WAVE meets AQUAMAN!